

Abdominal Cocoon Causing Small Bowel Obstruction: Rarity

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Image

A 42 year-old male presented with abdominal pain and multiple episodes of vomiting since last month. He had several such episodes in the past with spontaneous relief. The abdomen was doughy on palpation with lumpish feel in supraumbilical region. X-ray abdomen was normal. CECT abdomen revealed clumping of small bowel surrounded by thickened membrane (Figure 1). At laparotomy the entire small bowel was encased in a cocoon-like fibrous membrane (Figure 2). Extensive adhesiolysis and excision of membrane was done. Histopathology showed lymphocytic inflammation with few giant cells with the final impression being sclerosing encapsulating peritonitis.

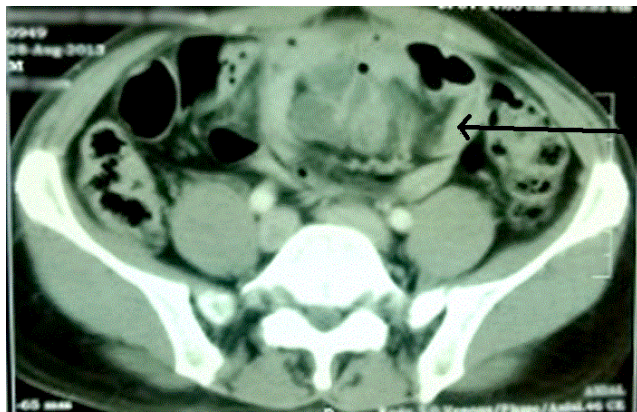


Figure 1: CT scan- Arrow showing fibrous membrane

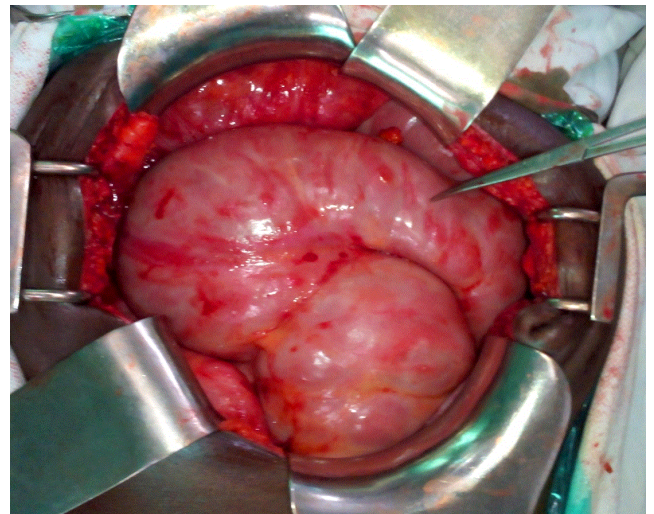


Figure 2: Intra-operative picture

Abdominal cocoon syndrome (sclerosing peritonitis or sclerosing encapsulating peritonitis) is characterized by partial or complete encasement of small bowel by a thick ring of fibrous tissue, causing clustering of the bowel [1]. Foo et al. first applied the term “abdominal cocoon” in 1978 [2]. The etiopathogenesis is unclear. A history of previous abdominal surgery or peritonitis, chronic ambulatory peritoneal dialysis, and the prolonged use of practolol have been implicated as causative factors [3].

References

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